Gerard Selby
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8/21/93

Dear Chip,

This is a very gratifying weekend for us, as the enclosed indicates. I am particularly pleased that Lil is included because what I have done would have been impossible without her. We are also pleased by the number of friends who have come and are coming despite my discouraging them, based on Jerry McKnight's experience, that the one building large enough for the convocation of which the awards are part is the one on the campus that is not air conditioned. All those bodies in mid-day August, he said, can be a real strain. He avoids them when he can. My sisters, along with nieces and nephews will be there in time for lunch.

First to come is a lawyer friend, Bill Neichter, of Louisville, KY. (1313 Lyndon Lane, #115, 40222)He has been helpful in many ways and has done much work, with some success, in helping add to the John Sherman Cooper archive at the Univ. of KY. He has located many records for it and has a good relationship with those in charge of that archive and with members of Cooper's former staff.

His wife, by the way, is an accredited medical records expert. She sent me much valuable information that I use in the coming book, NEVER AGAIN! So valuable that I ~~must~~ used some of her expert opinion as a chapter title.

I digress to tell you that the publication date and even the co-publisher are not known to me and that I've not inquired for a number of reasons. One is that I'm putting in all the time I can use on still another book more than half written. The publisher will be a small one. Wrone describes NEVER AGAIN! as "unprecedented." He asked me to send him what I had written by the time he learned I was writing and without my asking him retyped it on his computer. Particularly because the ms. is massive, that was a truly great labor! (He is coming in today, from a gathering the nuts in Canada.)

When I asked Bill Neichter which records he wanted to read yesterday the first he mentioned was my Russell file. He had read parts of the ms. when I had extra copies that, after retyping, I was reusing. I showed it to him and I also told him that there in an envelope in it marked confidential and that without your permission I am not to let anyone use it. I then asked him to give it to me when he came to it. I do not remember, after reading it, whether I read it when you sent it to me or not. I was immediately impressed by the great usefulness a couple of those things ~~are~~ for inclusion in NEVER AGAIN! and for encouraging people in KY to press in their search for the missing Cooper Warren Commission records.

Bill is a Cooper partisan. I had told him that I knew ~~he~~ Cooper had joined with Russell in Russell's opposition and that to a lesser degree Boggs also had but I did not recall how I knew that. It now seems that the only possible source I had was Russell. I think

ypu can see how that little bit added to what I have makes what I used about and from Russell more powerful.

Much of what you gave me (Russell) was disclosed in the Glenn hearings on the Act to disclose the remaining JFK records. Which the CIA is currently sabotaging. I do not know which and on the chance it would breach confidentiality have not asked Lesar. (He is having back trouble and is to be abed but isn't. If he is up to it he'll be here tomorrow.) My impression is that all other than this confidential Cooper stuff that you gave me Russell information was in the papers. I have no recollection of this Cooper information then being mentioned. The other

So, I write you to ask permission for me to use it in the book and for Bill to use it in two ways. One, now, to show to people, including in particular one member of Cooper's former staff, to encourage further search for Cooper's WC material, ~~which~~ it was reportdly extensive and that he kept entirely to himself, ~~which~~ this Bill has learned in his quest, from several staffers. Cooper appears not to have even discussed any WC info. with any of his staff. Their impression is that this was from his concern and the WC's over any leaking. Then for deposit of those few papers in the University archive.

And, if you agree, I would ask that he delay any deposit until after NEVER AGAIN! is out.

If you agree I'd like more than dimmed recollection to use in the book. When did you go there. I think your ~~[illegible]~~ brother was with you, no? What kind of reception did you get, who if anyone was helpful there and the general attitude there, ~~may~~ any restrictions, etc.

If you have forgotten what you asked me to keep confidential, what interests me is the proof of the accuracy of my recollection of what Russell has to have told me, that Cooper shared his single-bullet theory opposition (Scobey letters, one each way) and amplification of it in a short Cooper oral history.

Neichter, by the way, is a big fan of Reasonable Doubt. He keeps buying them to give to people he wants to interest in the subject or who mention it to him.

Not much new here. Lil and I are about as we have been. Less than three weeks after our 51st wedding anniv. Jerry had his ailing knee scoped and it helped him much. Dave reports many valuable oral histories are available at the LBJ Library but that Burkley's is withheld. And when he gets here he'll have a reunion with two former students both of whom are PhDs and professors of sociology.

The coming flood of anniversary exploitations promises only bad books. I hope you can find time to send me whatever you see on them out there so I can compile as good and as useful a file on it as I did on the 25th. and on Stone.

Our best to you both,

Harold